



# CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA LTD.

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CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA LTD.

F R O M

THE SEPTEMBER 1983 MEETING

O F

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For circulation to all Directors and Management.

1. BOARD MEMBERS

At the Board Meeting following the first Annual General Meeting, when Messrs. Black, Long, Mitchell and Simm were re-elected as Directors of the Federation, voting took place for election of Chairman and Vice Chairman. Mr. Niel Black, delegate representing Victorian Artificial Breeders Co-operative was elected Chairman and Mr. Owen Slattery, delegate representing the Phosphate Co-operative Company of Australia Ltd. was elected Vice Chairman.

Owing to pressure of duties the Director delegate representing Victorian Credit Co-operative Association Ltd., Mr. Alan Dash, resigned from his position at the September 1983 meeting after serving a period of four years on the Board, during which he provided valuable input into discussions and developments of the Federation.

The Board appointed Mr. Maurice Sevier, Principal, Kew High School, delegate representing Victorian Credit Co-operative Association Ltd. and a Director of Ed. Credit Ltd. to fill the casual vacancy created by the resignation of Alan Dash.

2. NEW MEMBERS

The following Co-operatives were admitted into membership of the Federation.

Central Gippsland Herd Improvement Co-operative Ltd.

Mullawingee Jojoba Co-operative Ltd.

Wholefoods Co-operative Ltd.

3. EMPLOYMENT CO-OPERATIVES BUSINESS ADVISORY SERVICE

Following the cessation of further funding by the Ministry of Employment and Training the services of Brian Greer were terminated at 31st August 1983.

This change in the Employment Co-operative Development Programme arises from the report submitted by the professional management consultant team employed by the Minister to undertake an evaluation of the Programme. Their report was submitted on 31st May 1983.

Despite meeting with the Minister and departmental officers, requests for information on future directions of the Programme have so far not been forthcoming. The Federation is, therefore, unable to indicate the Government's proposals relating to Co-operatives already established and funded and in membership of the Federation.

However, the services of the Federation are available to all those Co-operatives who are able to make use of them. Co-operatives in the Programme are represented on the Funding Committee of the Ministry of Employment and Training by Ron Harper and Jeff Langdon. The Federation is represented by its Executive Officer, Bill Rawlinson. If any Employment Co-operative has any proposals or problems which it considers should be brought to the attention of the Government, then these are the people to whom they should be submitted.

The Federation hopes to hear from you on this one.

#### 4. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

##### 4.i Education and Training

###### 4.i.i Directors

As a follow up to the valuable input provided by the 1983 Conference programme, the Board of the Federation at its September 1983 meeting agreed to plan a comprehensive two day programme of Education and Training for Co-operative Directors in March 1984. Details will be announced as soon as possible.

###### 4.i.ii Executives, Trading Societies

The Board agreed to work in conjunction with the Co-operative Federation of New South Wales to develop a joint programme of professional promotion of marketing skills and tactics. It is proposed that trading co-operatives of the Victorian Federation will join the trading co-operatives in New South Wales in a combined session to be held in Albury, New South Wales in late March 1984.

Full details will be announced in due course.

##### 4.ii Centralised Banking

Seven member Co-operatives have assisted in the first stage of a detailed study of development of this type of service for members in Victoria. A detail of cost benefits, factors affecting implementation and alternative methods of operation are under study by the Board.

##### 4.iii Bulk Fuel Purchasing

A sufficient number of member Co-operatives have expressed interest in this proposal to enable an exploratory discussion to be held with major oil companies on the possibility of development of this service. The Board considered reports from these initial meetings and the proposal is currently under

more detailed study by a special committee appointed for this purpose.

5. MEMBER CO-OPERATIVE MANAGER HEADS WORLD CONGRESS IN MELBOURNE

Congratulations and good wishes to Bob Maybury, Managing Director, Security Co-operative Permanent Building Society who, as President of the Australian Association of Permanent Building Societies is host to the Sixteenth World Congress of Building Societies being held in Melbourne in the first weeks of October, 1983. About 1,000 delegates from countries all over the world have gathered in Melbourne for this important occasion in the programme of Building Societies.

6. TAKE-OVER BIDS FOR MAJOR VICTORIAN CO-OPERATIVE

At its September 1983 meeting, the Board of the Federation noted with concern attempts to take-over the operations of ACMAL - Amalgamated Co-operative Marketers Ltd. Although not a member of this Federation - regrettably - this further threat to a major Co-operative enterprise in this State is indicative of an undesirable trend.

One of the major bidders is a former Co-operative marketer of dairy products and other primary products based in New South Wales which was recently taken over by the Adstream Group.

Another offer comes from the Industrial Equity Group which proposes an innovative partnership arrangement.

The third offer comes from the Murray Goulburn Co-operative whose bid aims to keep control of the marketing of Victorian produced butter, skim milk powder, Casein and much of the State's bulk cheese in the hands of seven Victorian Co-operative companies and Victorian farmers.

7. DAIRY FARMERS LEADER'S ADVICE TO DAIRY CO-OPERATIVES DIRECTORS

Mr. John Bennett, President, Australian Dairy Farmers' Federation, in his address to that body, was critical of Directors of Dairy Co-operatives. He said:

"The performance of Farmer Directors of Dairy Co-operatives has, on the whole, been totally inadequate.....  
Every Co-operative must have expertise at Board level in business administration, financial control and marketing.  
People with specialist knowledge have to be seconded to sit on the various Boards so the right questions are asked of management.....

The Co-operative sector shares most of the blame for the price cutting which takes place in Australian dairy industry."

The Federation would welcome comment on these statements from any Director or Co-operative executive.

Reminder

Subscriptions for the financial year ending 30th June 1984 are now due and payable.

Please assist in keeping expenses down by avoiding the need for special individual reminders.

Annual Report and 1983 Conference Papers

These have been circulated to all members. Further copies are available at cost.

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| Annual Report         | \$3-00       |
| 1983 Conference Paper | \$4-50       |
|                       | plus postage |